This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a filter for a router, comprising the steps of:

providing a set of ~~a plurality of~~ pre-written router filters within one or more files;

providing a router filter written specifically for the router, ~~wherein said pre-written filters are written before the specifically written filter is written~~;

running a program on a computer to ~~determine if any of the pre-written filter files matches, according to given criteria~~ identify one of the pre-written filters, as a substitute for the specifically written filter by matching each of the plurality of pre-written filters, one at a time, with the specifically written filter to determine which one of the plurality of pre-written filters most closely matches, according to a defined test, said specifically written filter; and

~~if one of the pre-written filters is found to match, according to said given criteria, said specifically written filter, then~~ loading said identified one of the pre-written filters onto the router and using said identified one of the pre-written filters to determine how the router routes data.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim [[2]] 1, wherein said test is a pre-defined test.

4. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the running step includes the step of running the program on the computer to identify which one of the pre-written filters most closely matches the specifically written filter according to a predefined set of criteria.

5. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of running the program includes the step of identifying defined features of the specifically written filter, and searching the pre-written filters for the identified defined features.

6. (Currently Amended) A system for providing a filter for a router, comprising:

computer readable medium including a set of <u>a plurality of</u> pre-written router filters;

computer readable medium including a router filter written specifically for the router~~, wherein said pre-written filters are written before the specifically written filter is written~~;

computer readable medium including a program for running on a computer to identify one of the pre-written filters as a substitute for said specifically written filter <u>by matching each of the plurality of pre-written filters, one at a time, with the specifically written filter to determine which one of the plurality of pre-written filters most closely matches, according to a defined test, said specifically written filter</u>; and

means for loading said <u>identified</u> one of the pre-written filters onto the router.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A system according to Claim [[7]] <u>6</u>, wherein said test is a pre-defined test.

9. (Original) A system according to Claim 6, wherein the program includes means to identify which one of the pre-written filter files most closely matches the specifically written filter file according to a predefines set of criteria.

10. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 6, wherein the program includes means for identifying defined features of the specifically written filters, and for searching the pre-written filters for the identified defined features.

11. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for identifying a filter for a router, said method steps comprising:

reading a set of ~~a plurality of~~ pre-written router filters within one or more filter files;

reading a router filter file written specifically for the router~~, wherein said pre-written filters are written before the specifically written filter is written~~; and

identifying one of the pre-written filters within the pre-written filter files as a substitute for said specifically written filter within the router specific filter file by matching each of the plurality of pre-written filters, one at a time, with the specifically written filter to determine which one of the plurality of pre-written filters most closely matches, according to a defined test, said specifically written filter.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein said method steps further include the step of loading the identified filter file onto the router.

14. (Previously Presented) A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein the identifying step includes the step of identifying which one of the pre-written filters most closely matches the specifically written filter file according to a predefined set of criteria.

15. (Original) A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein the identifying step includes the step of identifying defined features of the specifically written filter file, and searching the pre-written filter files for the identified defined features.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 5, wherein the loading step includes the step of loading both said identified one of the pre-written filters and said specifically written filter onto the router.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 15, wherein:

the step of providing a router filter written specifically for the router includes the step of a group of specified individuals providing a plurality of router filters written specifically for the router;

the step of running said program includes the step of running said program to identify, for each of said specifically written filters, one of the pre-written filter files as a match for said each of said specifically written filters; and

said pre-defined set of criteria are determined at the time said program is run and is provided by said group of specified individuals.

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein:

the loading step includes the step of, if one of the pre-written filters is found to match, according to said given criteria, said specifically written filter, then creating a data structure for said one of the pre-written filters and loading said one of the pre-written filters onto the router[[; and]]~

~~the method comprises the further step of, if none of the pre-written filters is found to match said specifically written filter, then creating a data structure entry for said specifically written filter and loading said specifically written filter onto the router.~~

~~creating data structures for said one of the pre-written filters and for said specifically written filter; and~~